

Amdt. dated **December 30, 2004**

Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, 17-23 and 25-34 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 10, 16 and 24 have been canceled, claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-13, 17, 18, 20-22 and 25-28 have been amended and claims 29-34 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings, specification and claims were objected to; claims 11, 12 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 1, 10, 16 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sproat et al.; claims 2-9, 13-15, 17-20, 22, 23 and 25-28 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and claims 11, 12 and 21 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in the office action.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in claim 2, and claims 4, 11-13, 17, 18, 20-22 and 25-28 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Sproat et al. is moot.

Further, the drawings, specification and claims have been amended in light of the objections noted in the outstanding Office Action. Replacement Figures will be filed in due course. In addition, regarding the rejections of claims 11, 12 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

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second paragraph, it is respectfully submitted this rejection has been overcome as proper antecedent basis for the feature "the CPU interface" now exists in the claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Also, new claims 29-34 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicant submits the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new claims 29-34 are similar to claims 10-15, but independent claim 29 recites that once the CPU outputs the start signal to begin the signaling data processing, the CPU interface ignores signals from the CPU until the signaling data processing is completed such that the CPU is free to perform other tasks, as noted in the specification at page 13, lines 1-9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and
please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: December 30, 2004

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-3B, 4 and 6H. The sheets, which include Figs. 1-4 and 6A-6N, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-4 and 6A-6N.

Replacement Figures will be filed in due course.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet Showing Changes